

Established in 1797 as The Alexandria Times and Advertiser

Out of the Attic

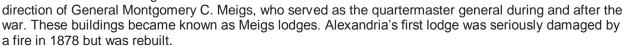
Meigs Lodge and the Alexandria National Cemetery

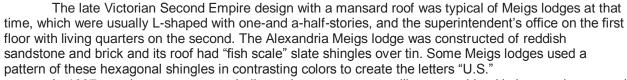
Alexandria Times, December 22, 2011

Image: Meigs Lodge, 1920s. Photo, Library of Congress.

n 1862 President Abraham Lincoln authorized the acquisition of property to be used as burial grounds for the Civil War dead, establishing the country's first national cemeteries. One of the earliest was Alexandria National Cemetery, opened that same year. After the war ended, Congress passed legislation to protect the cemeteries by ensuring that each would have substantial fencing and adequate housing for the cemetery superintendents.

This resulted in construction of dozens of structures designed under the





In 1887, another structure was built nearby to serve as a utility room with a kitchen, tool room and toilet. This brick building was connected to the lodge in the 1920s, around the time this photograph was taken, and a new garage was added years later. The Alexandria National Cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.



"Out of the Attic" is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as "Marking Time" and explored Alexandria's history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into "Out of the Attic" and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.

These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.